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City of Barrie

Final

Communities in Bloom Committee

Tuesday, February 13, 2024 | **4:00 PM** | **Huronia Room B**

COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM COMMITTEE REPORT
For consideration by Infrastructure and Community Investment Committee on March 6, 2024.

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair, K. Bagnell at 4:02 p.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

Present: 5 - K. Bagnell
D. Brooke-Bagnell
K. Patterson-McGrath
D. Ramsay
V. Watts

Absent: 2 - Councillor A.M. Kungl
S. Posius

STAFF:
Horticulture Parks Foreperson, M. Boyd
Legislative Coordinator, T. Maynard.

The Communities in Bloom Committee met and reports as follows:

PARTICIPATION IN THE 2024 COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM PROGRAM

Mona Boyd, Horticulture Parks Foreperson provided an update concerning the City's 25th Anniversary participating in the 2024 Communities in Bloom Program in the International category. Ms. Boyd noted that she would report back to the Committee once more information on the Program becomes available.

The Committee approved an expenditure from the Communities in Bloom budget in an amount of $2,650.00 to be used for the municipality's registration fees in the 2024 Communities in Bloom Program - International category.

The Committee provided their feedback to Ms. Boyd and received responses.

JUDGES' EVALUATION OVERVIEW

The Committee reviewed each category of the 2023 Communities in Bloom (CIB) evaluation form and discussed the following:

- Tree Management and reuse of tree benches in parks;
- Community appearance and investing in seasonal decorations;
- Encouraging rebates and incentives around electric vehicles;
- Sharing information on electric buses;
- The potential opportunity to collaborate with community groups, organizations and stakeholders such as Heritage Barrie Committee, Living Green, Pollinate Barrie and Nature Barrie;
- Engaging and educating the community on the CIB Program and beautification projects;
- Educational tours of the City's Operations - horticulture and forestry;
- Communications surrounding the City's 25th anniversary participating in the CIB program;
- Preparing a story map for website with criteria for Communities in Bloom;
- Façade grant program;
- Traffic calming measures;
- Looking for opportunities improve the results of the 2023 evaluation form; and
- Suggestions of items to be included in the City's 2024 CIB profile book for promoting the municipality.

The Committee will further discuss the 2023 CIB evaluation form at their next meeting.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Kelly Patterson-McGrath and Vandita Watts provided an overview on the preparations for the Let's Grow Native Plants Workshop for youth between the ages of 10 and 18. Ms. McGrath advised that the Workshop will be held at the Barrie Public Library on February 24, 2024 between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Ms. Watts advised that she received confirmation from three Barrie schools interested in participating in the workshop.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

CHAIRMAN